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The Rural School from Within. By MARION G. KIRKPATRICK. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1917. Pp. 303. \$1.28 net.

Those who have neither attended nor taught a rural school may get much local color and good advice, if they desire them, from this didactic but interesting narrative of the author's own experiences as a rural teacher. The data on consolidation of country schools may appeal to more specialized readers. The proposed rural-school curriculum falls far short of the changes which present conditions demand. The author's emphasis, as is that of most educational experts, is upon methods of instruction rather than upon the content of the course of study, and is therefore psychological rather than sociological.

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Health Survey of New Haven, Connecticut. A report presented to the Civic Federation of New Haven by CHARLES EDWARD AMORY WINSLOW, JAMES COWAN GREENWAY, and DAVID GREENBERG, of Yale University. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1917. Pp. 144. 75 cents.

Petersburg, Virginia, Economic and Municipal. By LEROY HIGDES, counselor in economics and public administration, Petersburg and Richmond, Virginia. With a Preface by W. JETT LAUCK, director, Bureau of Applied Economics, Washington, D.C. Chamber of Commerce of Petersburg, 1917. Pp. 166.

First Year's Work of the Institute for Public Service, November, 1915, through December, 1916. First Annual Report. By WILLIAM H. ALLEN, director. New York, 1917. Pp. 64.

Technique of Social Surveys. By MANUEL C. ELMER, University of Kansas. Lawrence, Kan.: World Publishing Co. 1917. Pp. 90. \$1.00.

The war in Europe is bound, it would seem, to disarrange social programs in America. The number of survey reports that continue to issue from the press indicates, however, that there is as yet no loss of interest in social reform. Some of these recent community studies are of more than local interest. This is true of an investigation of health conditions made for the Civic Federation of New Haven, Connecticut. The funds

for this investigation, which was begun in the autumn of 1915 and concluded in 1917, were provided by the Anna M. R. Lander Department of Public Health of the Yale medical school. The investigation was conducted under the direction of members of the medical school in co-operation with the New Haven Department of Health and other private and public welfare agencies of the city. The survey includes a study of the sanitary condition of New Haven, an investigation of the organization of the Health Department, and an interpretation of the vital statistics of the city. In important respects this survey may be regarded as a model. It is at once a searching analysis of conditions, a comprehensive and graphic presentation of findings, and a precise and authoritative diagnosis of the situation and its needs. It is from such community clinics as this that sociology is looking, not merely for its materials, but also for its methods, in its investigations of community life.

The economic and municipal survey of Petersburg is less important. It is not, as Mr. W. Jett Lauck says in his preface to the report, "an exhaustive and coolly analytical study." It is rather "an inventory of the commercial and industrial resources and forces" which have made Petersburg; which foreshadow its destiny as a commercial and industrial center. It is, in short, a quite legitimate piece of community advertising, setting forth graphically and convincingly such facts as business men would want to know. It is interesting as an indication of the wide range of community facts in which the modern business man is interested. They include natural resources, iron and steel; labor, white and colored; living costs, transportation, school facilities, and climate.

A particularly interesting fact about Petersburg is the sudden rise, at City Point nine miles away, of the little munitions city of Hopewell. This city, which did not exist in 1912, had, at the time this report was written, a population of 30,000, made up of the employees and dependents of the E. I. du Pont de Nemours Company, manufacturers of munitions. Hopewell has had a brief and adventurous career, but the picturesque and "human-interest" features of life in a booming war-made town are not touched upon in this report.

Reading William H. Allen's account of the first year's work of the Institute of Public Service leaves one with the impression that the most conspicuous service of the institute thus far had been in the rôle of a municipal gadfly.

Mr. Allen was connected, from the date of its foundation in 1906 until 1914, with the New York Bureau of Municipal Research. He knows what experts are able to dig out of municipal records. He is

himself an expert in social publicity. One of the aims of the institute seems to be to make the findings of the experts news, and to teach others to discover and make news from the same unpromising material. The institute thus becomes at once a training school for public service and an instrument of social reform. It seeks to train its pupils through the study of actual problems. It seeks to effect reform through the agency of a "pitiless publicity." It is another effort to extend democratic control of government through the agency of expert publicity.

A number of handbooks, designed to direct the field work of students of community problems, have been printed in recent years. Most of these books are suggestive and useful. To the inexperienced investigator they are a necessity. The *Technique of Social Surveys* is a book of this kind. It has the advantages of a late arrival in the field and has profited by the work of its predecessors.

At the present time local studies of social conditions are becoming so technical and detailed that no single individual can hope to become expert in the whole field of community studies, and no single book can pretend to cover adequately the whole range of community investigations. It is important that the insight with which the social survey started, namely, that the community is a unit and that community problems are interrelated, should not be lost sight of. Books like the one which Mr. Elmer has written serve at any rate to maintain this point of view.

It is inevitable that community studies should become technical, but it is also important that the interest of the ordinary citizen in community problems should be encouraged, and that community surveys, even when directed by experts, should be carried on with the co-operation of the people in the community. It is this fact which gives value to social-survey handbooks.

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Using the Resources of the Country Church. By ERNEST R. GROVES.

New York: Association Press, 1917. Pp. viii+152. 75 cents.

The material in this book on the country church is popularly presented for the use of Y.M.C.A. study clubs and rural ministers rather than for systematic students of sociology. A conventional outline is maintained emphasizing the relation of the church to the home, the community, recreation, health, aesthetics, morality, etc. The view-